

G7

C

G7 C

Up the neck break

G7 C

G7 C

G7

Sl

C G7 C

14 12 12 14 14 12 12 14 15 ^¼

14 14 12 14 12 14 14 14 12 14 12 14 12 14 12

G7 C

H 17 17 14 14 14 15 ^¼ 14 14 12 14 12

16-17 16 14 16 12 12 12 14 12 14 12 16-17 16 17

G7

14 14 14 12 14 14 H 14 14 12 14 12 17 17

14 12 14 12 12 12 14 12 14 12 16-17 16 17

2.

14 14 12 3 → 0 B 2 ↑ 0 0 0 0 B

This tune comes from a 1930 recording of the Mississippi Possum Hunters, an old time string band led by fiddler John Holloway. It is basically an instrumental interpretation of a song recorded by delta blues great Mississippi John Hurt, who was reportedly a friend. The structure of the tune is very irregular; the A part strain is 10 measures, while the B part strain is only 7. The B part is basically a melodic variation of the A, but without the added turn around. Note that the tune, as played by the Possum Hunters and as tabbed here, ends after a single strain of the A part.

The lyrics to the first verse of John Hurt's The First Shot Missed Him went like this:

The first shot missed him, a mile away,
The last shot got him, so they say,
Oh, the last shot got him,
Oh, the last shot got him.